

Early Childhood Advisory Council December 19, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:03am on December 19, 2013 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Frankfort, KY.

Roll Call.....

The following members were present: Julie Ashmun, Jane Chandler, Marilyn Coffey, Ben Cundiff, Paula Goff, Beth Jurek for Audrey Haynes, Cindy Heine, Tommy Floyd for Terry Holliday, Amy Hood, Daphne Hosinski, Chair Rick Hulefeld, Marybeth Jackson, Kevin Nix, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Joe Roberts, Nicki Patton Rowe, Bill Scott, Anna Shepherd, Ruth Ann Shepherd, June Widman and Tom Zawacki. Six staff and four guests were present. The following members were not present: Tom Buford, Tom Burch, Tracy Haddix, LaQuandra Nesbitt, and Bill Scott.

Introduction of New Members

Rick Hulefeld introduced the two newest ECAC members Julie Ashmun, M.D., Obstetrician and Daphne Todd Hosinski, M.D., Pediatrician. Rick highlighted the importance of both of their professional perspectives as members of the ECAC.

Approval of Minutes, September, 2013

On motion of Ben Cundiff, second by Brigitte Ramsey, the minutes of the September 2013 ECAC meeting were approved as presented.

Kindergarten Screening Update

Dr. Tommy Floyd reported that the release of the first year of universal kindergarten screen data will be in January 2014. He emphasized the importance of utilizing the screener data as a conversation piece to begin partnerships across the state. For the first time, Kentucky will have data on all Kindergarteners. In future years, this 2013-2014 school year screen data will be used as the baseline data. Data will include prior settings data in aggregate, but individual setting data will be released to school districts. KDE has met with partners to ensure that messaging is appropriate and shared across agencies, especially with regard to how the data will be used. Multiple ECAC members raised concerns about how and when data will be released in the future and how the data usage would be messaged. The release of the data will be in an Open House storage site and the Kentucky Department of Education welcomes any suggestions on how best to release data in the future.

2014 Early Childhood Profile Planning.....

Brigitte Ramsey, chair of the Data Subcommittee of the ECAC, reported out on the recent meeting of the Data Subcommittee about changes to the Early Childhood Profile. The Subcommittee discussed what types of data should also be included. The Subcommittee will meet in February to make final recommendations for the profile. The next Early Childhood Profile is set to be released in March of 2014.

CECC Year End Reports

Joe Roberts and Amanda Flanary gave a brief overview and history of CECC activities. Joe and Amanda also highlighted several CECCs across the state. The GOEC is extremely proud of the statewide geographical coverage of the CECCs, the quality applications received from the CECCs for FY14 and also the change to focus on families instead of environments.

2012-13 Third Party Evaluation

Jennifer Grisham-Brown, Principle Investigator, reported on interim results from the Third Party Evaluation for KIDS NOW. The study is working to address several research goals: 1) determine children's progress toward key indicators of school success across program type (Head Start, Public Preschool and Licensed Child Care Programs with a 3 or 4 STAR rating) 2) determine quality of classrooms across all program types 3) determine if children's progress maintains longitudinally and if there are differential effects in progress depending on program type and 4) determine the interaction effects between developmentally appropriate practices and teacher-child interaction on child outcomes/progress. The University of Kentucky contract with GOEC for this Evaluation is a two year contract, because this research project has longitudinal research goals. Parents of children who participated in the study perceived that the development of social skills is key to children's successful transition to kindergarten. Across all three program types the highest score on the child-teacher interaction measurement was in the emotional support domain, and the results of the BMI data collected show that some sample children were overweight or obese. The study also concluded that child outcome scores showed that children in all three program types made significant progress in one or more subjects. Growth on these subtests indicates that children progressed at a greater rate than would be expected developmentally during this period of time. The GOEC plans to flag these children past Kindergarten in the Longitudinal Data System of the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics. This will enable the GOEC and partner agencies to monitor the impact of high quality environments on these children.

CCAP Update.....

Beth Jurek gave an update on the Child Care Assistance Program. The numbers she reported are based on a comparison between April – October 2012 and April – Oct 2013. In 2013, CCAP is serving 11,908 fewer children and there are 34 more active STARS rated centers. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services has submitted their budget recommendations, including a request to fully restore CCAP eligibility up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Several ECAC members made suggestions on the future reports that Beth will provide to the ECAC.

Executive Director's Report

Terry Tolan announced that Kentucky has won \$44 Million in the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant for 2013. The GOEC and all partners involved are grateful for the opportunity and the infusion of resources to expand work on early childhood in the Commonwealth. One legislative change required in order for Kentucky to fulfill all Race to the Top goals is making the STARS Quality Rating System a mandatory system instead of a voluntary system. Monthly messages have continued to be distributed to parents through our partners, with the most recent being a Holiday Message on how to prepare children for kindergarten with fun holiday activities. There has also been emphasis on the Strengthening Families work that Kentucky has begun and with the Race to the Top grant, Kentucky will now be able to fully launch that work. The GOEC has been informed that there will be a cut to the Tobacco Settlement dollars in the coming biennium and the Program Investment Subcommittee will meet after the ECAC to discuss their recommendation. Joe Roberts reported that Kentucky has also won the NEMOURS grant, which will establish three learning collaborative groups across the state to focus on children's health. Terry reminded the ECAC of the Inaugural Ready Kids Conference in June 2014 and of the coming ECAC dates.

Conclusion and Adjourn.....

Rick Hulefeld adjourned the meeting at 11:54am. The next meeting of the ECAC will be Thursday, March 20, 2014.